

# METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

## Topsfield Water Department

## MA Department of Conservation & Recreation

### What is a radio-read meter and why did it replace my old meter?

- Radio-read meters allow utility companies to read meters via drive-by radio technology.
- They provide more accurate readings than visually reading the meter.
- The new meters allow water suppliers to bill customers monthly, as opposed to semi-annually, giving customers more frequent feedback on their water use and associated costs.
- There will be no additional cost to customers as the project is funded by Water Department revenues as well as a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation grant.



### Project Goals

- To increase customer awareness of household water use.
- To provide an important connection between water use and the cost of water.
- To achieve voluntary reductions in water use.
- To reduce overall demand on Topsfield's public water supplies.
- To restore healthy flows to the Ipswich River.

### Ipswich River Watershed



### About the Project

- In 2003, the Ipswich River was named the third most endangered river in the country due to severe low flows.
- The EPA Targeted Watershed Program awarded a \$1.04 million grant to the Department of Conservation and Recreation in 2004, in order to demonstrate an integrated approach to addressing the problems facing the Ipswich River.
- The Meter Replacement Project is funded, in part, by this grant. The funds have contributed to the installation of 500 radio-read meters in the town of Topsfield and analysis of water conservation resulting from monthly billing.

